

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5337

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USLO SACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 7034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL MARR NATO

SUBJECT: US USE OF NATO SATELLITES

REF: (A) STATE 300186, DTG 201633Z DEC 75

(B) USNATO 4447, DTG 211840Z AUG 75

SUMMARY. WE BELEIVE THE PRESENT US PROPOSAL IS WEAKER
THAN THE EARLIER TENTATIVE ONE FOR USE OF NATO III A SATELLITE.
WE RECOMMEND AN ADDITION TO THE US PROPOSAL TO OBVIATE CRITICISM
ON THIS BASIS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE SHALL SEEK TO OBTAIN TENTATIVE APPROVAL BY NATO AND OUR
ALLIES OF THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED IN REF A. THE DELAY IN LAUNCH
OF THE NATO III A SATELLITE FROM FEB 76 TO MARCH OR APRIL 76
LIKELY WILL PRECLUDE FINAL NJCEC APPROVAL IN APRIL 76,
HOWEVER.

2. REF B REPORT THE AD REFERENCED AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND
CONFIDENTIAL

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NATO REPRESENTATIVES ON THE EARLIER US PROPOSAL TO USE SATELLITE
NATO III A. AT THAT TIME THE US MADE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO
SATISFY NATO REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF US
SATCOM ASSETS). THE US COMMITMENT IN THE CURRENT PROPOSAL IS

WEAKER, OFFERING SPARE CAPACITY IN THE PRESENT DSCS II ATLANTIC SATELLITE AND SUGGESTING THAT AN AGREEMENT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO SUPPORT NATO DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN NATO III AND NATO IV SATELLITES. WE BELIEVE THAT NATO AND ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES WILL INTERPRET THIS CHANGE AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE US TO AVOID A FIRM FUTURE COMMITMENT. WE ALSO EXPECT THAT SOME WILL CONTEND THAT THE EARLIER LAUNCH OF NATO III B WILL SHORTEN THE OPERATIONAL LIFE OF THE NATO III SATELLITE PROGRAM.

3. TO OVERCOME THESE LIKELY CRITICISMS OF THE US PROPOSAL, WE RECOMMEND AN ADDITIONAL ELEMENT IN THE PROPOSAL (I.E., AN ADDITION TO PARA 5 OF REF A), SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS:

THAT THE US, RECOGNIZING THAT EARLIER LAUNCH OF NATO III B SATELLITE COULD REDUCE THE EXPECTED OPERATIONAL LIFE OF THE NATO III SPACE SEGMENT, WILL UNDERTAKE TO SATISFY NATO SATCOM REQUIREMENTS IN A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE MANNER SO AS TO OFFSET THIS POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN EXPECTED OPERATIONAL LIFE.
BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

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